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The specimen of wood exhibited to the Academy to-night is of some coniferous tree, probably a white cedar, *Cupressus thyoides*. This tree, until very recently, was common along the Schuylkill and Delaware, and isolated specimens may still exist there. The wood now shown is in no degree mineralized and but slightly decomposed. It came from a log which lies in the blue clay just north of the Wharton Street Bridge and is still to be seen there. No shells, so far as he knew, have been found in the excavation, but more careful search in this direction might be rewarded.

The blue clay bed appears to mark one of the periods of quiescence in the glacial action which, in its torrential course, scooped out the valleys of the Schuylkill and Delaware and afterwards filled them up again at the margin of tide-water. It harmonizes itself with similar beds which have been observed at several points along the shores of the rivers—notably at the Lazaretto and Printz Hall, Tinicum, and near Camden, N. J.

There were probably several of these periods of comparative rest in the course of the retirement of the ice from northern Pennsylvania.

The artesian well of Mr. Black, at Black's Island, below Fort Mifflin, which is 456 feet deep, disclosed at the depth of 100 feet a bed of white beach sand 47 feet in thickness, as well as many of gravel and clay. The decomposed gneiss rock was reached at the depth of 240 feet or thereabouts.

Section of the strata of Black's Island, Delaware River below Fort Mifflin, from the artesian well of E. N. Black, Esq. :

Blue alluvium, . . . . .	45 feet.
Sand, . . . . .	1 "
Blue alluvium, . . . . .	33 "
Gravel, . . . . .	6 "
White clay, . . . . .	2 "
Beach sand, . . . . .	47 "
Gravel, . . . . .	10 "
Clay, . . . . .	3 "
Red gravel, . . . . .	6 "
White gravel and sand, . . . . .	17 "
Beach sand and gravel, . . . . .	38 "
Decomposed gneiss (mica), . . . . .	20 "
Gneiss rock, . . . . .	228 "
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	456 feet.

#### MAY 11.

The President, Dr. LEIDY, in the chair.

Twenty-two persons present.

*Fatal Cases of Trichiniasis.*—The President read a letter from Mr. EUGENE A. RAU, of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, giving an account of recent cases of fatal trichiniasis arising from imperfectly

cooked, measly pork, which had been eaten for a week from January 6, 1886. The family consisted of a man and wife and two daughters, aged respectively five and thirteen years. The older daughter and the mother, aged 37 years, have died; the other members of the family, although affected, are recovering. In the mother, who died March 8, the deltoid muscle showed, under the microscope, three to nine; the rectus femoris, two to six, and the diaphragm, one to three trichinæ, in a field view about one-fifth of an inch in diameter. In the daughter, who died February 19, trichinæ were found imbedded in the deltoid muscle, in some portions as many as forty-two being counted on the field of view under the microscope. No other portions of the daughter were examined, but the lungs, heart, liver, spleen and kidneys of the mother were found to be unaffected.

The pork used was home-raised, and, according to the owner, the animal did not at any time show signs of ill health. An examination of two other hogs raised on the premises was made, but no trichinæ were found. As usual in such cases, the meat was imperfectly cooked or fried, the tenderloin, sausage meat, spare ribs, etc., all being freely used. For several days while in water the human trichinæ showed signs of life, coiling and uncoiling when freed from the muscular fibre, but the stage of development found in the pork showed no activity under the same conditions. The communication is accompanied by excellent photographs of portions of human muscle and of the affected pork, showing a number of the worms imbedded in the tissue.

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MAY 18.

Mr. GEO. W. TRYON, JR., in the chair.

Seventeen persons present.

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MAY 25.

The President, Dr. LEIDY, in the chair.

Nineteen persons present.

Charles P. Sherman was elected a member.

The following was ordered to be printed :—